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Mrs. Meir Proposes Return To Talks; Resolution Will Be Submitted To Knesset

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir announced today that she will propose a resolution at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting to the effect that conditions for Israel's return to the Jarring talks have been created. Mrs. Meir made the announcement at a meeting of the Labor Alignment parliamentary faction which endorsed her proposal. She also announced that the resolution, the adoption of which is now considered virtually certain, would be submitted to the Knesset Tuesday for approval. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan attended today's meeting and participated in the discussion. A Government decision on the Jarring talks had been expected to emerge from the regularly scheduled Sunday meeting of the Cabinet. But today's meeting was postponed owing to the government's pre-occupation with the Leningrad trial and sentences. Another cause for delay was the hesitation by the National Religious Party to agree to a return to the Jarring talks, a situation that was resolved only today. The three NRP ministers, Dr. Joseph Burg, Dr. Zerach Warhaftig and Michael Yaacov Hazani reportedly favored a return but were opposed by some of their party's younger element.

The NRP executive stated this afternoon that it did not consider that the conditions necessary for Israel's return to the Jarring talks have been created yet. But it agreed nevertheless to permit the three NRP ministers to vote in favor of return if that turned out to be the decision of the rest of the government. The NRP leaders met with Dayan this morning, apparently for assurances that Israel's security would not be jeopardized if it rejoined the negotiations. Dayan reportedly told them he favored returning to the Jarring talks at this time. (Interviewed by New York Times correspondent James Reston at her Tel Aviv apartment, Premier Golda Meir was pessimistic about chances of peace through the Jarring talks. But according to Reston, in the interview published today, the Israeli government will decide soon to rejoin the talks. Mrs. Meir indicated in her remarks that she thought the Jarring talks would be prolonged and could succeed only if the Arabs genuinely want a settlement. "If they are coming to the Jarring talks in a mood of serving us ultimatums and timetables, this is a blue-print for failure," she said.)

Leningrad Defendants, Relatives Sing 'Am Israel Chai' And Recite Prayer In Court

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27 (JTA)--"I wish to send from this courtroom, Chanukah greetings to all my brethren in Israel." Those words were spoken by Anatoly Altman, one of the 11 defendants in the Leningrad trial, when he was asked by the court if he had anything to say before sentence was pronounced last Thursday, according to an account appearing today in the newspaper Yediot Achronot. Altman was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for his part in an alleged hijacking attempt for which two co-defendants, Mark Dymshitz and Edvard Kuznetsov received the death penalty and the others prison terms of 4-15 years. According to the Israeli newspaper, its account of the dramatic final minutes of the Leningrad trial was obtained by telephone from an unidentified Moscow Jew. The report said that when Altman made his statement, all of the other accused and their relatives who were in the courtroom stood up and sang, "Am Israel Chai" and recited the prayer, "Shema Israel." They were silenced by guards on orders from the bench, according to the informant. But when the prisoners were being removed from the courtroom, Silva Zalmanson Kuznetsov, who was sentenced to ten years for her part in the hijack plot, shouted, "If I forget thee, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning." She is the wife of Edvard Kuznetsov, who was sentenced to death.

British, French, Italian Communist Parties Assail Trial, Sentences

LONDON, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Waves of protest at the death sentences imposed on two Soviet Jews of the "Leningrad II" trial swept through Western Europe this weekend, with sharply worded denunciations and disavowals coming from three unexpected sources--the British, French and Italian Communist parties. In Paris, the Communist Party declared in its newspaper, L'Humanite, that "the extreme severity of the verdict appeared to be out of proportion with the facts." The newspaper said it was to be regretted that the motives for such an important verdict at Leningrad had not been made public and the trial had been held practically in private. "Furthermore," it stated, "if they merited such a punishment, it is essential to explain clearly why." The British Communist Party also expressed dissatisfaction with the verdict and appealed to Moscow to commute the sentences, predicting that "many friends of the Soviet Union would be gravely concerned" if they were carried out. In a Sunday editorial, the Italian Communist Party newspaper, L'Unita, called the death sentences "unbelievable" and noted they were for a crime "which had not been carried out--and this is juridically grave." It expressed a hope that the sentences would "not be carried out."

Meanwhile, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, sent telegrams of protest to the Soviet Union President Nikolai Podgorny, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, and a number of Soviet ambassadors in Western capitals, asking them to intervene for the "commutation of the death sentences and for the release of all prisoners." Dr. Goldmann also tried unsuccessfully to telephone Soviet leaders from London to plead for clemency for the Leningrad Jews. A spokesman for Dr. Goldmann told newsmen that the Jewish leader was told that the Soviet officials were all away from Moscow for the weekend. Several hundred British Jews have been demonstrating outside the Soviet Embassy in London since news of the sentences was released on Thursday. A three-man delegation delivered a formal protest to Embassy officials. Meanwhile, as 1,000 persons in Brussels demonstrated in protest against the Leningrad verdict, the Belgium government formally asked the Soviet government to commute the two death sentences. The Belgium Foreign Ministry said the government intervened with the Soviet authorities as "the interpreter of public opinion in Belgium." In Switzerland, the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists sent a telegram to the Supreme Soviet urging clemency "in view of the tragic events suffered by the Jewish people in our time" and criticized the Soviet authorities for not publishing full infor-

mation on the trial. Writer Friedrich Duerrenmatt and other leading Swiss intellectuals also voiced their protest against the sentences and called on Soviet authorities to "annul the sentences and order a retrial attended by international observers." Protests also mounted in the Scandinavian countries where 200 demonstrators in Stockholm staged a torchlight parade to the Soviet Embassy where they presented a letter demanding the release of the "Leningrad 11" while in Copenhagen, a group of Danish politicians, writers and clergymen expressed their shock in cables sent to Soviet Premier Alexsei Kosygin. The Jewish Youth Organizations of Scandinavia registered their outrage with officials in the Soviet embassies in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. In Marseilles, France, three Jewish students began a hunger strike. In Paris, the display window of Intourist, the Soviet national tourist agency, was broken when a stone was flung at it by an unknown person. Shortly after the incident, the Jewish Defense Committee there issued a statement claiming responsibility for the incident and vowed that it would continue its anti-Soviet campaign. While Pope Paul VI offered his traditional Christmas speech and blessing to the crowds in St. Peter's Square, some 40 Italian Jews demonstrated silently against Soviet anti-Semitism. They displayed signs in Italian stating, "freedom for Jews," and distributed leaflets denouncing the death sentences. Spokesmen for the group said the demonstration was not aimed at the Pope but was aimed to reach people from various countries attending the Christmas services.

20,000 Demonstrate In Tel Aviv; Mrs. Meir: 'This Iron Gate Too Will Fall'

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27 (JTA)--More than 20,000 shouting, fist-shaking demonstrators jammed City Hall Square here last night, burned a red flag and cheered when Premier Golda Meir told them: "We believe that the day will come when our brethren will come not only from the free world but from behind the Iron Curtain. The day will come when this iron gate too will fall." The mass rally was typical of the fury and emotion that swept over Israel after the Leningrad 11 - nine of them Jews - were sentenced Thursday. The anger of the Israelis was fanned by news that at least 20 more Russian Jews will go on trial shortly in Leningrad, Riga and Kishinev. "We have not come to beg for mercy for the Jews sentenced in Leningrad. We demand justice," Mrs. Meir declared. "News of this sentence, this mockery of the very concept of law has reached all corners of the world," she said. "On behalf of the government of Israel and the Jewish people we tell those who are detained and those already sentenced that it is as though this entire people were with them at that trial." Mrs. Meir was heard by the thousands in the square and thousands more packed into side streets and on rooftops and balconies. The City Hall facade was covered with a huge banner proclaiming "Let My People Go." That theme was echoed in the chants of the crowd and on the thousands of smaller placards and banners they brandished.

(The official Soviet news agency Tass dismissed the Israeli reaction to the sentences as "another fit of anti-Soviet hysteria." Tass charged that "Zionist circles" were "interfering with Soviet judicial procedure" and claimed that international criticism of the sentences "actually is materniminded by Israel" to divert attention from the "sinister doings" of the Israelis. The tough response by Tass indicated to some observers that the appeals reportedly filed by defense counsel on behalf of the Leningrad defendants have little chance of success.) Few in Israel took seriously the assertion by Meir Wilner, leader of Israel's pro-Moscow Rakach Communist Party, that he had "every reason to assume that the Soviet authorities would commute the death sentences" of two of the Leningrad accused. Wilner, a Knesset member, made that statement at a meeting in Haifa yesterday of the Young Communist League. He justified the Leningrad trial, taking the Moscow line that the accused were tried not because they are Jews but because they committed a criminal offense. In her address here last night, Premier Meir declared that Jews stand alone and the world looks on in silence when they are harmed. "The world is not just and there is no just society so long as the just rights of the Jewish people are not recognized," she declared.

Dominican Monks Pray For The 11; Catholic Priests Join Jews In Condemning Trial

But Mrs. Meir acknowledged that "we can derive some encouragement at this time from the repercussions all over the world of the Leningrad trial," noting that "even the Communist front has been shattered." Her reference was to the criticism of the sentences expressed in the French and Italian Communist Party organs, L'Humanite and L'Unita. President Zalman Shazar appealed to Kremlin leaders over the Israel Radio yesterday to commute the death sentences in the Leningrad trial and to permit Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. He said it was especially cynical of the Soviet authorities to pronounce sentence on Christmas eve when they knew that the Christian world was celebrating. Prayers for the Leningrad prisoners were voiced by a group of Dominican monks in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in East Jerusalem today. A group of 27 Roman Catholics from the United States, visiting Jerusalem for Christmas, sent a letter to the Jerusalem Post stating, "We Roman Catholic priests, brothers, sisters and lay teachers wish to join the Jewish community in what we hope will be a world-wide protest against the latest demonstration of Soviet inhumanity." Archbishop Joseph Raya, head of the Greek Catholic community here, scored the trial and sentences Friday as "awful" and "terrible." He said he was praying that "The Almighty enlighten the minds of the Soviet leaders so that the death sentences will not be carried out."

The Russian Orthodox Church Mission in Jerusalem, which is controlled from Moscow, turned down a request from Religious Affairs Minister Zerach Warhaftig, to convey a letter to Premier Alexsei N. Kosygin. He said his church was not political and could not perform a political task. Foreign Minister Abba Eban said on a radio broadcast Friday night that Israel has approached ten foreign governments at the highest level to intervene on behalf of the Leningrad accused. Eban said, "What took place this Christmas in Leningrad is an event of historical dimensions that can be compared with another trial in Paris many years ago (the Dreyfus trial)." He said the Leningrad sentences "should serve as a test to the world's conscience that will no doubt find expression in the face of the cruelty that has come to light in this trial." Eban declared that while in the past "the liberation of Soviet Jewry was only considered possible, it has now become inevitable." In an unprecedented manifestation of unity between government and opposition here, the Knesset unanimously adopted on Friday a resolution urging revocation of the two Leningrad death sentences. The resolution, which was approved by unanimous show-of-hands vote, was proposed by Menachem Beigin on behalf of all the parties - but the pro-Moscow Rakach Communists, who were absent, Israeli law courts will observe two minutes of silence tomorrow morning.

Jewish, Non-Jewish Leaders Condemn Sentences; Nationwide Demonstrations Planned

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Jewish and non-Jewish leaders in the metropolitan area and across the nation denounced the Soviet authorities for handing down death sentences against two Jews and expressed shock and anger at the severity of the sentences against the nine other defendants in the Leningrad 11 trial. Rabbi Harold I. Saperstein, president of the New York Board of Rabbis called for a national day of prayer for the defendants. He termed the death sentences "the ultimate expression of the repressive policies of the Soviet Union toward the Jewish population," and urged the civilized world to condemn the sentences as an "act of barbarism." Mrs. Max Schenk, president of Hadassah, urged the Soviet High Court "to reverse this decision and let these people go" in the spirit of the "socialist ideals to which the Soviet Union professes allegiance." Mrs. Schenk added, "In the name of justice and human decency we appeal to the Soviet Union: Do not add to the list of martyrs by yet another cynical miscarriage of justice." The Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, issued a statement appealing to all governments to consider pardon and amnesty for the Leningrad defendants, the Basques in Spain and the blacks on Robbins Island in South Africa. Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, sent a telegram to Secretary of State William P. Rogers urging the United States to protest to the government of the Soviet Union against the "barbaric sentences."

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, president of the American Jewish Congress, called on President Nixon, Pope Paul and the World Council of Churches to intercede with the Soviet authorities. Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, asserted that the refusal of the Soviet Union to permit foreign newsmen to cover the trial and evidence surrounding the arrests "indicates that this was a case of entrapment for political reasons." Rabbi Gilber Klapperman, chairman of the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, announced that prayer meetings have been scheduled today in synagogues throughout the country on behalf of the condemned prisoners. Public demonstrations and mass meetings are scheduled for tonight and throughout the rest of the week in major cities across the nation. A 100-hour vigil is scheduled to begin tonight near the Soviet Mission in New York. The vigil is being coordinated by the Ecumenical Council Against Religious Persecution, Betar, the Jewish Defense League and the Havurah. The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry sponsored a protest march last night through Times Square. The marchers carried a five-foot Chanukah menorah. In Washington, over the weekend, some 300 Jews demonstrated in front of the Soviet Embassy. They burned a Soviet flag and carried a scaffold with a Jewish prayer shawl hung through a noose. On Christmas eve, five members of the JDL and two others were arrested after they eluded police barriers at the Soviet Mission in New York and made their way to the upper terraces of the Park East Synagogue across the street.

The Jewish activists, led by JDL chairman Rabbi Meir Kahane, shouted threats and slogans at the Consulate and chanted in Hebrew. Larry Fine, JDL executive director, said the group had "taken possession" of the synagogue, and added but declined to elaborate that "no Russian individuals or installations in this city" were safe from JDL "from now on." The New York police were instructed by officials to prevent any demonstrations at the Soviet and Polish offices and to be on guard to prevent "any damage or unlawful trespassing." Leaders of nine "progressive Jewish organizations and publications" called on Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador to the United States, to act to help rescind the sentences. "The extremity of the verdicts has shocked many supporters of peace, coexistence and socialism," they stated in a cable to the ambassador in Washington. Among the signers of the cable were the editors of Freiheit, Jewish Currents, the American Federation for Polish Jews, and the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs. Many of these signers have been associated with support to one degree or another of the Soviet Union. Some 50 members of the SSSJ, accompanied by four rabbis carrying two coffins filled with petitions protesting the trial, marched Thursday evening to the Soviet Mission and attempted to present the petitions to Soviet officials. The officials refused to accept them. The Workmen's Circle cabled Rogers to urge him to "request an emergency session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to protest the trial and sentences of the Leningrad Jews charged and sentenced in violation of the UN Charter."

Hundreds in Protest Demonstrations In Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa

MONTREAL, Dec. 27 (JTA)--About 500 Jews carrying placards and shouting slogans demonstrated in front of the Soviet Consulate yesterday in protest of the Leningrad trials. For the first time in the history of the Montreal Jewish community, Sabbath restrictions were waived so that all the Jews who wished to attend the rally could do so. The demonstrators walked peacefully from the headquarters of the Canadian Jewish Congress to the Soviet Consulate half a mile away. All local youth organizations were represented by members who carried placards reading, "Stop the Soviet Murderers"; "Let My People Go" and "I am a Jew." In front of the Soviet Consulate, demonstrators were addressed by Murray Spiegel, vice chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress of the Eastern Region and by Rabbi Allan Langner, president of the Board of Jewish Ministers of Greater Montreal. They expressed shock and anger at the sentences and demanded the Soviet government to free the 11. In Toronto, five Jewish students pleaded guilty to trespass charges and were each fined \$25, after they entered the Soviet Embassy building in Ottawa and handcuffed themselves to the furniture. The students had participated in a rally outside the Embassy on Thursday where 300 youths, converging on Ottawa by bus from Toronto and Montreal, protested the severity of the sentences. Meanwhile, Monroe Abbey, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, announced that he had sent a telegram to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, expressing the Jewish community's shock at the death sentences and requesting the Canadian government to intervene with the USSR to save the lives of those sentenced.

Brazilian Jewish Confederation Wires U Thant Urging Leningrad Verdict Be Annulled

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Dec. 27 (JTA)--The Brazilian Jewish Confederation, representing all Brazilian Jewish communities, cabled UN Secretary General U Thant today, asking him to make the Soviet government aware that "the recent trial in Leningrad represents a flagrant violation of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man," and insisted that the verdict be annulled "in obedience to the fundamental principles of right and justice." The cable was signed by Moyses Kauffman, Confederation president.

Rabbi Sandrow, Reversing Former Position, Urges State Aid For Hebrew Day Schools

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--A leading Conservative rabbi declared today that "with pain in my heart and a total reversal of a stand I have taken for the greater part of my career, I urge that we accept state aid for our (Hebrew) day schools." The remark, by Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow, past president of the New York Board of Rabbis and spiritual leader of Temple Beth El, Cedarhurst, N.Y., was made in the course of an address at a midwinter conference of Jewish educators here, sponsored jointly by the Educators Assembly and the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish education. Rabbi Sandrow said he was forced to reverse his position on state aid to private schools because the Jewish community has not given sufficient support to Jewish education. He told his audience that the present system of congregational afternoon schools in which students get no more than six hours a week of instruction is not adequate. "If we imagine we can teach a youngster Hebrew conversation in an environment where Hebrew is foreign, we tilt against windmills," he said. He called on the educators "to push for the establishment of more day schools and to urge more of our children in afternoon schools to transfer to day schools." He also proposed the development of "a network of post-elementary schools and afternoon high schools with a minimum of six to eight hours, using goals and materials that go beyond mere reading of dry and dusty history books and biblical tracts, but stress the very lifestyle of the Jew in America."

Rabbi Sandrow urged "rabbis and principals of congregational schools to return to the classroom, particularly after the third year of congregational schooling, for religious and moral teaching." Rabbi Sandrow said that talk of Federation assuming greater fiscal responsibilities for Jewish education is on the agenda of many communities. But he cautioned Jewish communities not to be "lulled into the notion that money alone will reconstruct our communities, motivate our parents, break down the present sense of alienation, create better schools and viable curricula." He warned that "Federation as the sole panacea is also an illusion, even if Federation could financially support the educational complex." The Conservative leader claimed that except for a small number of students who attend congregational schools or Hebrew summer camps or who have spent time in Israel, "most grow up to maturity almost totally devoid of Jewish knowledge." Referring to the theme of the midwinter conference, "The Future Curriculum of the Jewish School," he said, "It is inconceivable that after almost 25 years, with all the changes in the world, with increased alienation of our youth, with the establishment of the State of Israel, our curriculum remains the same." He observed that "The Hebrew courses we try to give in a six-hour-a-week school simply cannot prepare an average child for a Conservative synagogue service or for Bible study."

Riklis And Tisch Named General Chairmen Of Greater New York U.J.A.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Two of New York's most influential and philanthropic leaders, Meshulam Riklis and Laurence A. Tisch, will serve as general chairmen of the \$150 million campaign projected by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York during 1971, according to an announcement today by Morris L. Levinson, president of the organization. In assuming the general chairmanship of the New York drive, which will be formally inaugurated at a dinner on Feb. 24, Riklis and Tisch will serve in a year when American Jewry is being asked to strive toward the highest level of generosity in its history, Levinson stated. Riklis was raised in pre-World War II Palestine and came to the United States in 1947. As president and board chairman of Rapid American Corp., he heads one of the largest business organizations in the country. Tisch is chairman of the board and chief executive office of Loew's Theatres, Inc. The principal speaker at the dinner will be Baron Elie de Rothschild, who leads the Appel Unifie Juif de France, the French equivalent of UJA. Baron de Rothschild will be coming to the country especially for the occasion. As UJA general chairmen, Riklis and Tisch will direct the most extensive local fund-raising campaign in the country, with a corps of over 20,000 volunteer workers in New York City, Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The drive will benefit six major welfare agencies from the general UJA campaign and the Israel Emergency Fund.

Brandeis U. Professor Among 20 Academicians In Israel On Intercultural Exchange

WALTHAM, Mass., Dec. 27 (JTA)--A Brandeis University fine arts professor is one of 20 academicians selected nationwide to spend two weeks in Israel in a pilot program of intercultural idea exchange. Dr. Gerald S. Bernstein, an architectural historian in the University's fine arts department, is now attending the "First Seminar in Israel for American Academicians," sponsored by the Jewish Communal Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee. Eli Asher, director of community relations for the New England region of AJCommittee, said, "Our purpose in sending these young academicians is to 'turn them on' to Israel. The people we have selected have a special capacity for enthusiasm, and have a tremendous ability to explain and interpret what they experience. We hope they will develop a commitment to Israel's needs which they will instill in American Jewish students." The program opened last week with a full week of intensive discussion on Israel and Israel's relationships with the outside world.

Two Former SS Men Admit They Participated In Mass Murder Of Jews In Majdanek

BONN, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Two former SS men admitted in a Wiesbaden court today that they participated in the mass murder of Jews at Majdanek death camp, near Lublin in 1943-44 but claimed they acted under orders. The two are among five former SS guards who went on trial today for the massacre of 65,000 Jews at Majdanek. Gotthard Schubert, 57, of Wiesbaden, said that on Nov. 19, 1943, he was ordered to arrange the shootings of 31,000 Jews. He said the camp inmates were lined up naked and shot with machineguns. He described the act as "terrible" but insisted he was only following orders. His co-defendant, 65-year-old George Hoffman of Limburg, told the court that in 1944 he participated in the shooting of 40 Jews. Two former guards at the Buchenwald concentration camp were freed today although a war crimes court found them guilty of manslaughter in the death of Jewish inmates during the final weeks of World War II. The statute of limitations on war crimes which went into effect last year, precludes sentences for any crime other than wilful murder. The court found that the two defendants killed Jews during a march after Buchenwald camp was evacuated in 1945 but could not prove wilful murder.